

# WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

October 2018



Weston High School

Lisa Deorio, Principal

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## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



On October 5, Assistant Principal Mr. Filip, science teacher Mr. Aitkenhead, and Principal Mrs. Deorio chaperoned a group of students who participated in the No Barriers Summit in New York City. The mission of the No Barriers Summit is “to unleash the potential of the human spirit through transformative

experiences, tools, and inspiration, and help people embark on a quest to contribute their absolute best to the world.” No Barriers was co-founded by WHS alumnus Erik Weihenmayer. Erik is the author of *Touch the Top of the World: A Blind Man's Journey to Climb Farther than the Eye Can See: My Story*, and *No Barriers: A Blind Man's Journey to Kayak the Grand Canyon*.

The morning of Wednesday, October 10, was the school-based administration of the PSAT for all sophomores and juniors. There are several reasons why we give this test during the school day. First, it serves as an appropriate practice for sophomore and junior students and provides data to the individual students about their strengths and challenges. In addition, our school will receive a school-wide profile of our student performance that helps us plan appropriate instruction. The PSAT/NMSQT provides junior students with the opportunity to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program. Lastly, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT also have the opportunity to be included in the College Board's student search service. Participants in this free service may receive materials from colleges and governmental scholarship programs informing them of educational and financial aid opportunities

While sophomores and juniors were taking the PSAT, there was a special program for freshmen. The Looking In Theater, a student improv group from the greater Hartford area, came to Weston High School. These student-actors presented dramatic scenes dealing with important social issues facing teenagers today. The presentation also involved a series of short dramatic scenes followed by a discussion in which the actors answer questions as their characters.

Seniors were encouraged to go to the Library Learning Commons in the morning. English teachers were available to work on their college essays, as well as members of the school counseling staff who assisted with linking their common applications. In addition, many seniors met with different college representatives in our College and Career Center that morning.

**Homecoming week** will run from Monday, October 22 to Friday, October 26. We encourage all students and faculty to participate in the following events:

- Monday: Pajama Day,  
Sporting Events - Girls' Swim and Dive, Girls' Volleyball, Badminton at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: Tropical Tuesday  
Halloween Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: Wear your Gold, Celebrate Weston High School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Sporting Events - Girls' Dive and Boys' Soccer
- Thursday: Throwback Thursday, Freshmen - Prehistoric, Sophomores - Electric 80's, Juniors - Future, Seniors - Disco
- Friday: Weston Day  
Powder Puff  
Sporting Event - Boys' Football

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Writing Center had a very busy month in September! Mrs. Eisenman, Mrs. Gleason, and Mrs. Opidee met with 96 students to individually revise and edit their writing in scheduled conferences. The teachers visited 46 English and social studies classes to introduce the center and conference with students. Seniors finalized college essays while freshmen and juniors crafted thesis statements for their document based questions in history. All students are encouraged to make appointments as soon as possible and email the writing teachers listed above with any questions or concerns.

Weston High School parent and mindfulness educator, Hilary Misiano, worked with Mrs. Klein's Introduction to Psychology class as part of their unit on positive psychology. Ms. Misiano explained the impact that stress has on our brains and then guided the class through several exercises including mindful eating, mindful breathing, and a body scan.



Students in the PLTW Civil Engineering and Architecture class played along to a game of "Kahoot" to review for an upcoming test on the history of architecture. At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, students in the Civil Engineering and Architecture class took part in a bench build for students at Marvin Elementary School located in Norwalk, Connecticut. Pictured is the class with the thank you note they recently received from Marvin Elementary.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to our school co-president, senior David Tamburri on his appointment to the 2018-2019 State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE). In 1998, the CT State Legislature created the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) to give Connecticut students a

voice in educational planning and enable the State Board of Education, the commissioner of education, state department of education personnel, the governor, and state legislators to become familiar with high school students' perspectives on key issues. SSACE meets regularly with the education commissioner, and on occasion with the Governor, to reflect student opinion on matters of concern to the State's high schools, standardized testing, and instituting programs that promote health and wellness.



At the Board of Education meeting in September, three seniors were named as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Pictured here is Carolyn Zech. Not pictured: Owen Tanzer and Kayla Zhang.

### CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS & ATHLETICS

Weston Athletics is proud to announce that we have partnered with the NFHS Network and are now broadcasting many of our Trojan athletic events LIVE. If parents, family members and friends, can't attend games, the live action can be watched from anywhere—including a phone, tablet, computer or smart TV. All competitions on the lower turf field and in the new gym, along with football games will be televised.

The WHS Library Learning Commons has a new display showcasing all that our makerspace has to offer. Students can try their hand at anime using the new Wacom tablets, or make a cool case with decorative duct tape and a Ziploc bag. Animation, professional video editing, e-learning platforms, invention, engineering, puzzles, Arduino, 3-D printing, coding, paper crafts and knitting are among the many things our students can use in the makerspace. **PLAY - TINKER - CREATE AND EXPLORE!**



Unified Sports has started this year, and the meets are held every Monday afternoon in the old gym. Students from both Weston Middle School and Weston High School participate in soccer, Zumba, bowling, basketball, floor hockey, track and conditioning activities, which vary by season. Unified Sports started in 2008 as an outreach of Special Olympics. The primary goal of Unified is to foster inclusion, acceptance and respect. Currently over 85% of Connecticut high schools have Unified Sports teams. Weston High School has had a team since spring, 2014. The Booster Club has graciously provided funding to support our team. The team hosted Brookfield in soccer on October 15, had a schoolwide Zumba event on October 22, and had a Halloween party on October 29 hosted by the Circle of Friends Club.

Students who would like to become involved should contact coach, Tom Curley, [tomcurley@westonps.org](mailto:tomcurley@westonps.org), coordinator, Nancy Johnston, [nancyjohnston@westonps.org](mailto:nancyjohnston@westonps.org), or students Chris Fruhbeis, [christopherfruhbeis@students.westonps.org](mailto:christopherfruhbeis@students.westonps.org) and Sam Parks, [samuelparks@students.westonps.org](mailto:samuelparks@students.westonps.org).

## CLUB NEWS



Builders Beyond Borders students spent Saturday, September 29, at Earthplace in Westport where they raked and mulched, making improvements to the trails. Students have also been collecting gently used shoes as part of an initiative that creates micro businesses in developing countries using these

shoes. Our new AP Environmental Teacher, Mr. Aitkenhead, will travel with Builders in April 2019.



In honor of October as national domestic violence awareness month, members of Weston High School's Teen Peace Works presented the Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) with \$1,000 donation from the Sherlock Family Foundation of Weston. Students presented DVCC's new Executive Director, Kevin Shippy with the donation at Teen Peace Works' first meeting of the school year.



The Weston Against Cancer Committee has been very busy. During the last weekend of September, students hosted a fundraiser at Saugatuck Sweets, an ice cream shop in Westport, where they received a portion of the store's proceeds from that weekend. The committee also sponsored a boy's soccer game on October 5, where the varsity team showed their purple spirit with purple socks during the game against Newtown. Weston Against Cancer members also sold baked goods and showed their purple pride!

**WHS Company** is busy at work rehearsing its fall production *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani. Set in a fictional town in northern Maine, the play weaves together a series of vignettes that occur in the same hour on the same evening, just as the Northern Lights appear in the New England sky. Love is found, lost, repaired, and embraced in this funny, quirky, heartwarming series of tales. Directed by Nancy Ponturo (*Hamlet, All My Sons*), and starring a cast of both familiar and new faces on the Company stage, this play is certain to win over audiences. Performance dates are November 9, 10 and 11, 2018. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.whscompany.com>.